

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 187378
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY:ASCFULLER

APPROVED BY:ASCFULLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187378

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 6877 ACTION SECSTATE WHITE HOUSE JUL 22.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6877

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC PASTOR

SECSTATE FOR ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR OAS BL VE US

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA PRESIDENT ASKS PRESIDENT CARTER TO
CONSIDER ASKING OAS TO URGE THAT NEW ELECTIONS BE HELD
IN BOLIVIA

1. FONMIN CONSALVI AT 1400 ON JULY 22, 1978, HANDED
OVER LETTER DATED JULY 22 FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ TO
PRESIDENT CARTER WITH THE REQUEST THAT EMBASSY FORWARD
TEXT ASAP TO WASHINGTON. FONMIN ALSO SAID GOV WILL MAKE
PULIC STATEMENT AFTERNOON JULY 22 ABOUT BOLIVIAN
SITUATION (SEPTTEL).

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DR MR PRESIDENT:

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 187378

ONCE MORE THE EFFORT WHICH WE, SEVERAL NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE,
ARE MAKING TO SET RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON A FIRM BASE THROUGH
THE FULL OPERATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY,
IS BEING PUT TO A SEVERE TEST.

THE PERSEVERING AND ADMIRABLE ACTION CARRIED OUT
PRINCIPALLY BY YOU IN DEFENSE OF THE LIBERTY AND

DIGNITY OF PEOPLES, HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTING VERY EFFECTIVELY TO THE OPENING OF NEW PATHS TOWARD THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA WHICH ARE SUBJECTED TO MILITARY GOVERNMENTS. THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN PERU, ALREADY CARRIED OUT; IN BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR, FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER NEWS THAT OPENS HOPEFUL PROSPECTS FOR THE NATIONS OF THE CONTINENT, WERE THE REASON FOR FRANK AND EXPLAINABLE OPTIMISM. THE SAME REACTION WHICH WE GOT TO HEARING THAT THE ELECTORAL RESULTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BE RESPECTED, CREATING A VIGOROUS MOVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION IN SUPPORT OF THE ELECTORAL RESULTS IN THAT REPUBLIC, CONTRIBUTED TO INCREASING OUR CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESSES IN LATIN AMERICA. THE RESULTS IN ECUADOR, DESPITE ALL THE SURROUNDING WORRISOME CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE STIMULATED OUR RESOLVE.

TODAY'S NEWS ABOUT THE ISOLATED MILITARY COUP IN BOLIVIA FILLS US WITH CONSTERNATION. A SIMILAR DECEIT TOWARD INTERNATIONAL OPINION IS INCONCEIVABLE. THE DAY AFTER HE CALLED FOR THE ANNULLMENT OF A VITIATED ELECTORAL PROCESS AND NEW ELECTIONS, WITHOUT RESPECT FOR OR ANY OBSERVANCE OF COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN, HE ASSUMES POWER MILITARILY IN BOLIVIA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 187378

I AM NOT SURPRISED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES BEING EXPERIENCED BY THAT COUNTRY NOR BY THE UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR OF BOLIVIAN DEMOCRATIC SECTORS, ALLIED TO EXTREMIST GROUPS IN AN UNCONCEALABLE PROVOCATION OF THE ARMED FORCES ACCUSTOMED TO PREDOMINANCE.

NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THAT ALLOWING THIS SHAMELESS TRAMPLING OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AND OF THE GOOD FAITH OF A PEOPLE THAT BELIEVED IN THE PROMISE OF A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC, INSTITUTIONAL NORMALITY WOULD BE A REGRETTABLE PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD DESTROY ALL THE EFFORT MADE WITH GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF LATIN AMERICA.

AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO MUTUAL CONSULTATION, I SUGGEST TO YOU THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THIS CASE BEFORE THE OAS TO ASK THAT IT URGE GENERAL PEREDA TO CARRY OUT THE DECISION OF THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL JUNTA TO HOLD NEW ELECTIONS IN BOLIVIA. ALTHOUGH WITHOUT MUCH HOPE FOR THE RESULTS, I BELIEVE THAT THE SILENCING OF ANY REACTION WILL CANCEL THE GROUND GAINED FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTINENT.

I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR OPINION
SOON AND LEARNING OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT
ACTION.

CORDIALLY, CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.
END QUOTE

3. ORIGINAL OF LETTER BEING POUCHED TO SERGEANT (ARA/AND/V).
CROWLEY

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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To: LA PAZ
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